



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

PRINCIPLES OF DISABILITY EVALUATION—Wilmer Cauthorn Smith, M.D., Chief Medical Advisor, Oregon State Industrial Accident Commission; Fellow, American Association for the Surgery of Trauma. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1959. 210 pages, \$7.00.

This text is an excellent reference for any physician who is not experienced in the field of disability evaluation, since the author stresses the need for an understanding of the philosophy upon which the subject is based. The book is divided into four sections. The first section explains the relationship of the physician to the problem, the basic principles that are applicable, the need for uniformity, and methods of reporting. The second section deals with the relationship of cause and effect, the concept of permanence, which disabilities are medically ratable, and concepts of gainful employment and general industrial occupation. Section three covers the problem of relationship in detail, stressing its importance and the prerequisites for such determination. Section four discusses the actual evaluation technique in a fashion usable under most legislative acts pertaining to disability evaluation.

Although the techniques of evaluation, presented by the author, do not have application in the California system (due to its variance in method from most other state systems), the material in the first three sections would benefit anyone in the field of disability evaluation here or elsewhere. Section three, alone, covers a subject that relatively few physicians understand sufficiently, or fail to utilize, when dealing with occupational injuries and diseases either before or when permanent.

In my opinion, this volume meets a need for good instructional material in an area of medical education that has been too long neglected. The first three sections should class as a "must" for anyone becoming involved to any appreciable extent in the field of disability evaluation.

PACKARD THURBER, JR., M.D.

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PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS—The History and Examination of the Patient—John A. Prior, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, Ohio; and Jack S. Silberstein, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, Ohio. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1959. 388 pages, with 193 illustrations, \$7.50.

This book embodies the course in physical diagnosis taught at the Ohio State University School of Medicine. In the authors' opinion most text books on physical diagnosis devote too much space to the discussion of disease processes, at times even including laboratory data. They feel that the fundamental objective of a course or a text on physical diagnosis should remain—as it has always been—to teach the student how to obtain a good history and how to perform a satisfactory physical examination.

Therefore, the present book emphasizes at length a careful history and physical examination of the normal patient. A relatively detailed discussion of the review of body systems

has been included to acquaint the student with the large number of medical terms he must master in a short time and to explain the medical significance of these terms.

The authors' ideas seem valid and are presented logically. The book is directed to the second-year student and presents its material at this level. Graphs and diagrams are used to a larger extent than in most texts. The illustrations are numerous and clear. The techniques of examination are good and are given in painstaking manner.

Despite the authors' announced good intention to eliminate the use of eponyms the reviewer finds quite a few instances where they have not succeeded: for example, on page 262 Dupuytren's contracture, page 272 Raynaud's phenomenon and Buerger's disease, page 286 Bell's phenomenon.

To the student seeking a sound, basic text on physical diagnosis this book can be recommended.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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CENTAUR—Essays on the History of Medical Ideas—Felix Marti-Ibanez, M.D., Professor and Director of the Department of the History of Medicine, New York Medical College, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals, New York, N. Y.; Editor-in-Chief of MD Medical Newsmagazine. MD Publications, Inc., 30 East 60th Street, New York 22, N. Y., 1958. 714 pages, \$6.00.

Doctor Felix Marti-Ibanez is a prolific, able, restless man with a glib and facile style of writing. He has lived in a number of places and has been successively a psychiatrist, public health administrator, pharmaceutical house director, editor of *MD* and professor of the history of medicine. He has written a great many articles and short stories, as well as assorted columns in newspapers and magazines.

The articles in this book are a collection of his essays—previously published or presented verbally. All of them have as a common denominator an historico-medical background, and the author's desire to impress upon the physician that "his professional endeavors and thoughts are clothed in the fabric of history."

As Doctor Felix Marti-Ibanez says, "These articles are but leaves torn from the notebook of a restless man, who has moved through the world of the history of medicine in much the same way he moves through the world itself and through life . . . jotting down his notes about them with more enthusiasm than meticulousness, leaving others more expert to complete the task."

The essays skip from subject to subject. They reflect the author's judgment of himself as a man of many ideas, with an amazing range of interests and a great deal of information. They also reflect a superficial skimming of many of the subjects. They often express personal opinions and conclusions not in agreement with other historians who may have investigated more deeply.

Doctor Marti-Ibanez is an interesting and provocative author. This book may well fit on the bedside table of the physician, if not in his library.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.